

ROBERT McNEIL.—HEIRS OF.

[To accompany bill H. R. No. 728.]

JANUARY 16, 1857.

Mr. KNAPP, from the Committee on Revolutionary Pensions, made the following

REPORT.

The Committee on Revolutionary Pensions, to whom was referred the petition of the surviving daughters and only heirs of Robert McNeil, deceased, a captain of marines in the revolutionary war, praying for a pension or recompense for services their father was entitled to, report:

That from well authenticated facts, and the original letters written by Captain McNeil while in prison, it satisfactorily appears that the said Robert McNeil, in the year 1777, was commissioned in the continental service a lieutenant of marines on board the United States frigate Boston, commanded by one Hector McNeil. That on the 7th day of June, 1777, the frigates Boston and Hancock, being in company on a cruise, captured the British frigate Fox, and the said Robert was appointed to the command of the marines on board the said prize. That on the 7th day of July thereafter, after a sharp engagement, the Fox was re-captured by the British frigate Flora and taken into Halifax, where the said Captain McNeil and marines were held prisoners of war until exchanged some six months after. That he served in the capacity aforesaid eight months, including the term of his imprisonment from May 21, 1777, to January 24, 1778. That he suffered much in prison, and returned ruined in health and fortune, and died in Savannah, Georgia, in the year 1792.

And your committee further report that the said Robert McNeil, after said exchange, was not continued in the service; and that by a resolution of Congress of November 24, 1778, and May 22, 1779, he was to be settled with, and considered as a supernumerary officer, and entitled to one year's pay, to be computed from the time such officer had leave of absence on that account; and Congress further recommended the States to which such officers belonged to make such further provision for them as their respective circumstances and means entitled them to. And inasmuch as the said Captain McNeil was never settled with, or received pay for his services, and that there is now due him the sum of \$4,178, which his children are legally entitled to, they report a bill for their relief.

